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an essentially elongated outer casing having first and second ends which are closed with first and second end plates, respectively;

an inlet conduit, P_{in} , at said first end of said outer casing for introducing a fiber suspension to be treated into the apparatus;

a fiber suspension discharge conduit, P_{out} , at said second end of said outer casing for discharging a thickened fiber suspension from the apparatus; and

a filtrate discharge conduit, F_{out} , provided in said outer casing for the filtrate; wherein

essentially at least between the inlet conduit and the fiber suspension discharge conduit the apparatus includes,

- (i) a filter surface having a substantially round cross section, and
- (ii) a cleaning member positioned inside said filter surface, said cleaning member comprising a rotating shaft, and at least one screw thread fixed to said rotating shaft for keeping the filter surface clean, and wherein

the fiber suspension and filtrate discharge conduits for the thickened pulp and the filtrate, respectively, are provided with valves for controlling the operation of the apparatus, and wherein

said valves are controlled in response to input power to the shaft, on the basis of an impulse from a previous process stage or a pressure difference prevailing over the filter surface.

Please cancel claim 21.

Please amend claims 22-24 pending herein as follows:

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22. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the screw thread is fixed on the shaft by means of tie rods which leave a free space between the shaft and the screw thread.

23. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a clearance
2 between the screw thread and the filter surface is less than 5 mm.

24. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the
C clearance between the screw thread and the filter surface is less than 3 mm.

Please add the following new claim:

26. (NEW) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the clearance between
C3 the screw thread and the filter surface is 0.2 – 2 mm.

Please amend claim 25 pending herein as follows:

25. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the filter
C4 surface is provided with guides which prevent the fiber suspension from rotating inside
the filter surface.

Please add the following new claims:

27. (NEW) An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said guides include
C5 essentially axial grooves.

28. (NEW) An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said filter surface
C includes a screen.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.